

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4327

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0244

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IC, NATO

SUBJECT: ALLEGED SOVIET OIL THREAT IN ICELAND: RADIO AND PRESS
STORIES

1. ON 0730 ICELANDIC RADIO NEWSBROADCAST TODAY THERE WAS
THE FOLLOWING ITEM:

QUOTE: A REPORT OUT OF WASHINGTON STATES THAT THE SOVIET UNION
WILL CUT ITS OIL SUPPLY TO ICELAND UNLESS ICELAND
CLOSES DOWN THE NATO BASE THERE. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS ASKED
ICELANDIC AMBASSADOR KROYER ABOUT THE STORY. AMBASSADOR KROYER
SAID THAT IT WAS UNFOUNDED. HE SAID THAT THE CUT IN OIL FROM
THE USSR WAS DUE TO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS--NOT POLITICAL. END
QUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING WAS INCLUDED IN 0900 BASE AFRTV LIVE U.S. NEWS
BROADCAST TODAY BY CBS REPORTER DOUG FOLEY:

QUOTE: UPI REPORTS THAT ADMINISTRATION SOURCES SAY THE USSR
THREATENS TO CUT OFF ICELAND'S OIL SUPPLY UNLESS THE ISLAND
NATION ORDERS THE UNITED STATES TO REMOVE ITS MILITARY BASES.
THE ICELANDIC AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON DENIES THE REPORT BUT
ADMITS RECENT SOVIET OIL SHIPMENTS HAVE BEEN SLOW IN ARRIVING.
END QUOTE. SOME LISTENERS THOUGHT THE REPORTER ADDED THAT PEN-
TAGON SOURCES SAID THREATS LIKE THIS CAN BE MADE ONLY BECAUSE
PRICE OF OIL HAS INCREASED AND AVAILABLE SUPPLY DIMINISHED.
WE ARE UNABLE TO VERIFY HERE THAT THIS ADDED COMMENT WAS MADE.
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3. THE 1230 ICELANDIC NEWSBROADCAST QUOTED WASHINGTON SOURCES
AS SAYING USSR INTENDS TO TERMINATE SALE OF OIL TO ICELAND UN-
LESS AMERICAN TROOPS LLEAVE KEFLAVIK. RADIO NEWS HAD ASKED
FONMIN AGUSTSSON ABOUT THE REPORT. HE STATED HE WAS NOT

AWARE OF ANY SUCH PRESSURE OR THREATS BY THE SOVIET GOVT.

4. PERISCOPE FEB 11 ISSUE NEWSWEEK ON LOCAL STANDS YESTERDAY
HAD FOLLOWING:

QUOTE: ICY THREAT. ICELAND HAS BEEN WARNED BY THE SOVIET
UNION TO COSE DOWN ALL OF ITS AMERICAN AND NATO MILITARY
INSTALLATIONS. IF ICELAND REFUSES, MOSCOW THREATENS TO CUT
OFF ITS OIL SHIPMENTS (WHICH ACCOUNT FOR 80 PERCENT OF THE
ISLAND'S PETROLEUM). THE U.S. HAS LONG USED THE ISLAND
AS A BASE FOR KEEPING TRACT OF RUSSIAN SUBMARINES. END QUOTE.

FRONT PAGE TODAY'S MORGUNBLADID CARRIES SAME NEWSWEEK ITEM,
ATTRIBUTING STORY TO NEWSWEEK.

5. COMMENT: IF THE FONMIN BELIEVES USG SOURCES ARE INVOLVED
IN STORY, WE CAN ADD HIM TO LIST OF PEOPLE TO WHOM FUTURE ACCESS
WILL BE LIMITED. INITIAL GUIDANCE IS STILL CORRECT ONE, NAMELY
"KEEP OUT OF IT." WE HOPE PENTAGON IS NOT ISSUING STATEMENTS
OR MAKING COMMENTS ON THIS. THAT WOULD ONLY ADD TO A FEELING
ALREADY TOO PREVALENT IN GOI ABOUT TRUSTWORTHINESS AND DIS-
CRETION OF THE MILITARY.
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